

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Abstract has been amended as required.

The claims have been amended, where appropriate, to clarify important differences between the inventions claimed and the prior art relied upon in the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and § 103(a).

Independent Claim 5 now recites, *inter alia*, a first transparent member which has a board shape and on which object light is incident (see, e.g., 12b);

a second transparent member which has board shape and is separately disposed from the first transparent member facing the first transparent member, and from which the object light incident on the first transparent member leaves (see, e.g., 12a);

transparent electrodes formed on the first transparent member and the second member, respectively, and facing each other (see, e.g., 11a and 11b);

a first liquid crystal whose orientation is changeable (see, e.g., 13);

a second liquid crystal whose orientation is fixed (see, e.g., 14);

the first liquid crystal and the second liquid crystal being arranged alternately in a first direction with a striped shape between the transparent members on which the transparent electrodes are formed facing each other (see, e.g., the horizontal direction in Fig. 2);

wherein the viewfinder display has an incident surface (see e.g., the left surface in Figs. 4A and 4B) on which light crossing a direction of an optical path of the object light is incident, and the incident surface crosses an exit surface (see, e.g., the top surface in Figs. 4A and 4B) from which the object light leaves the second transparent member, and crosses the first direction, and

wherein the light incident on the incident surface is diffracted by the first liquid crystal and the second liquid crystal and leaves from the exit surface.

In Figs. 5A and 5B of Mukawa, the principal reference, there is a configuration in which two kinds of liquid crystals are arranged alternately, so that incident light is diffracted. As shown, incident light L1 impinges on the transparent electrode 422 from above and leaves transparent electrode 423 as light L2, below. It is apparent that this arrangement in Mukawa is quite different from that recited in Claim 5. Similarly, the arrangement of Mukawa is quite different from that recited in independent Claim 8.

Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on Mukawa should be withdrawn.

Claims 5 and 8 and the claims dependent thereon should now be allowed. The secondary references relied upon in the rejection of Claims 6-7, 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) do not compensate for the deficiencies of Mukawa pointed out above. Dependent Claims 9-12 have been amended to clarify the inventions intended to be claimed.

New dependent Claims 13-19 distinguish patentably from the prior art for at least the same reasons as their base claims.

New Claims 20-29 also distinguish patentably from the prior art. Independent Claims 20 and 23 recite a method for displaying in a viewfinder of a camera. The methods recited in these claims comprise steps in which first and second transparent members, transparent electrodes, liquid crystals and surfaces are provided or disposed and in which light is emitted and diffracted. The manner in which these steps distinguish patentably from the prior art is apparent from consideration of the arguments for patentability provided with respect to Claims 5 and 8. Claims 20 and 23 and the claims dependent thereon distinguish patentably from the prior art and should be allowed.

Without intending to limit the claims, attention is directed to the following portions of the specification with regard to amended Claims 5 and 8 and new Claims 13-19:

1).Claims 5 and 8, see Fig. 4B and page 12, line 3 to page 13, line 1.

2).Claim 13, see page 6, lines 18 to 21.

3).Claim 14, see page 11, line 11 to page 13, line 1.

4).Claim 15, see page 16, line 21 to page 17, line 22.

5).Claim 16, see Fig.5 and page 14, lines 12 to 20.

6).Claim 17, see page 14, lines 21 to 26.

7).Claim 18, see page 6, line 26 to page 8, line 8.

9).Claim 19, see Fig.1.

This application is now believed to be clearly in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (XA-10381) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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